

# NEWS RELEASE



**STATE OF ALABAMA**  
**Department of Industrial**  
**Relations**  
**News For Immediate Release**  
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## **Unemployed workers in 53 counties may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, September 24, 2004.....Unemployed workers in 41 additional counties declared disaster areas as a direct result of Hurricane Ivan may be eligible for benefits under the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program, according to Phyllis Kennedy, director of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations.

“DUA benefits are available to persons who work or live in those counties and became unemployed, or could not engage in their customary self-employment, as a direct result of Hurricane Ivan,” says Kennedy. “There are now a total of 53 counties with persons potentially eligible for DUA.”

The newly-declared disaster counties for DUA are: Autauga, Barbour, Bibb, Blount, Bullock, Calhoun, Chilton, Choctaw, Clay, Coosa, Cullman, Dale, Dallas, Elmore, Etowah, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Hale, Jefferson, Lamar, Lawrence, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Marshall, Marion, Montgomery, Perry, Pickens, Pike, Shelby, St. Clair, Sumter, Talladega, Tallapoosa, Tuscaloosa, Walker, Wilcox, and Winston. The final date to file a claim in these counties is October 22, 2004.

Previously 12 other counties were declared disaster areas: Baldwin, Butler, Clarke, Coffee, Conecuh, Covington, Crenshaw, Escambia, Geneva, Mobile, Monroe, and Washington. The final date to file a claim in these counties is October 15, 2004.

Claims for state unemployment compensation (UC) benefits may be filed by calling 1-866-234-5382. Generally, persons who are eligible for regular unemployment compensation benefits are not eligible for DUA, but the claimant may qualify for DUA if state unemployment compensation benefits are exhausted. Self-employed individuals will be requested to provide a copy of their 2003 income tax records.

DUA services are administered by the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations through its network of Unemployment Compensation Call Centers across the state. Funding is provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. More information on DUA is available at: <http://dir.alabama.gov/>.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on DIR visit the Web site: <http://dir.alabama.gov/>.